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## Foreword

The policy of MFCS Symposia is to get people from all areas of theoretical computer science together. The organizers of MFCS'98 made an additional effort in order to increase the number of participants by organizing ten workshops of interest for specialized communities. This effort resulted in the probably most successful MFCS in history with above 300 participants and a lot of very interesting talks.

This special issue is devoted to the presentation of full papers of three MFCS'98 workshops that were devoted to very actual topics of current interest. The workshop on Communication has mainly focused on the communication facilities of different network structures. This is of special interest because distributive computing currently starts to be the standard computing way. One new, fascinating area of computer science is molecular computing, that provides a completely new computing technology based on the chemical manipulation of DNA sequences. The workshop on Molecular Computing was devoted to this topic. Recently, the point of view on the class of tractable computing problems has been changed from the original class P to the class of problems solvable randomly in polynomial time. Thus, randomized algorithms and approaches become one of the central topics of current algorithmics and complexity theory. The workshop on Randomized Algorithms has been devoted to this topic.

The papers presented in this special issue have been chosen by the workshop chairs (J. Hromkovič and W. Unger for the MFCS'98 Workshop on Communication, G. Păun for the MFCS'98 Workshop on Molecular Computing, and R. Freivalds for the MFCS'98 Workshop on Randomized Algorithms) from the contributions submitted and presented at the workshops. All papers have been refereed by the standard referee procedure of Theoretical Computer Science.

We would like to thank all the authors for submitting their papers to these workshops and to this special issue. We are indebted to all members of the program committees of these workshops as well as to the referees who were asked to respond under a very tight time schedule. Special thanks are due to the MFCS'98 chair Jozef Gruska for the idea to organize the MFCS'98 workshops, and due to the Editor-in-Chief of Theoretical

Computer Science, Maurice Nivat, who kindly accepted to host this special issue.

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